

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 00106 101510Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 MC-02 SS-15 SP-02 INR-07 L-03
NEAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 /044 W
-----101519Z 124083 /47
O 101413Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2705

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 0106

FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, MASS, LE
SUBJECT: GOL REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN EQUIPPING INTERNAL SECURITY
FORCES

REF: 76 BEIRUT 9012

1. ON JAN 10, FOLLOWING PLENARY MEETING OF US TECHNICAL
TEAM WITH GOL MINISTERS AND SENIOR OFFICIALS, MINISTER OF
INTERIOR SALMAN (WHO IS LEADING LEBANESE SIDE IN RELIEF AND
RECONSTRUCTION TALKS IN HIS CAPACITY AS MINISTER OF HOUSING)
RAISED WITH ME PRIVATELY THE QUESTION OF USG ASSISTANCE IN
RE-EQUIPPING OF INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES. THIS PROBLEM HAS
ACQUIRED RENEWED URGENCY IN THE WAKE OF JAN 3 BOMB EXPLOSION
IN EAST BEIRUT.

2. MINISTER SALMAN REPEATED MANY OF THE ARGUMENTS HE MADE
TO CHARGE HOUGHTON (REFTEL) STRESSING THAT ISF WAS WITHOUT
EQUIPMENT AND IN DESPERATE NEED OF ARMS, TRANSPORT AND
COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT. HE HAD RECEIVED SOME
APPROACHES FROM OTHERS WILLING TO PROVIDE EQUIPMENT (HE
DID NOT SAY WHO) BUT MUCH PREFERRED TO DEAL WITH USG IF
POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, NEED WAS URGENT AND HE MUST KNOW AS
SOON AS POSSIBLE IF USG CAN HELP. COULD USG GIVE OR
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PAGE 02 BEIRUT 00106 101510Z

SELL GOL THE EQUIPMENT HE NEEDED? IF NOT, COULD GOL
PURCHASE SUCH ITEMS DIRECTLY FROM US MANUFACTURER? IF
SO, COULD USG RECOMMEND WHICH MANUFACTURER OF, FOR
EXAMPLE, COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT SUITABLE FOR POLICE
FORCES WAS BEST? DR. SALMAN ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST
IN SECURING THE SERVICES OF AN EXPERT TO ASSIST IN THE
REORGANIZATION OF THE INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES, FROM

THE USG IF POSSIBLE AND IF NOT PERHAPS FROM A US
PRIVATE FIRM.

3. I REPLIED BY REVIEWING LEGAL PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN
OUR PROVIDING EQUIPMENT TO ISF, EVEN THOUGH PURCHASER
OF RECORD ON LEBANESE SIDE WOULD BE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE.
HOWEVER, I TOLD SALMAN THAT USG WAS SYMPATHETIC TO
GOL INTERNAL SECURITY PROBLEM AND THAT QUESTION OF
HOW WE COULD HELP WAS UNDER ACTIVE DISCUSSION IN
WASHINGTON. I PROMISED TO TRY TO GET HIM ANSWERS TO
HIS QUESTIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

4. COMMENT: RICHARDSON AND I ARE NOW SCHEDULED TO
SEE PRESIDENT SARKIS AND GOL MINISTERS AT 0900 ON JAN
15 TO DISCUSS RESULTS OF TECHNICAL TEAM'S MISSION.
SINCE IT IS POSSIBLE THAT EITHER THE PRESIDENT OR
SALMAN MAY ASK ME ABOUT USG RESPONSE ON SECURITY
ASSISTANCE AT THAT TIME, I WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFO
DEPT CAN GIVE ME PRIOR TO THAT DATE.
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